

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Community Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

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Media Contact: Sherrie Johnson (410) 638-3258 (office) 443-827-0329 (cell)

### Commission on Disabilities Accepts Nominations for Employment Recognition Luncheon

(Bel Air, MD)-- The Harford County Commission on Disabilities' Employment Committee is accepting nominations for awards to be presented at its Annual Recognition Luncheon for Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs in Bel Air.

"The awards highlight the accomplishments of employees with disabilities in our community and recognizes the employers who give them the opportunity to join the workforce," said Committee Chair Niki Biggs. "The committee also spotlights individuals, businesses and organizations that promote the hiring of persons with disabilities," said Biggs.

The official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month is "*Expect. Employ. Empower*". Advancing disability employment is about creating a cycle of inclusion- *expecting* the best out of everyone, *employing* people regardless of their disability, and *empowering* all employees to succeed. This highly skilled talent pool can help employers compete in this challenging economy, but people with disabilities are often mistaken for not wanting to work or not having the necessary skills. The Commission on Disabilities hosts this Annual Recognition Luncheon to remind everyone that at work, it's what people can do that matters.

Anyone can nominate – whether you are a supervisor, friend, patron, acquaintance, or a co-worker someone who has worked daily to make a difference, or a business/organization that has gone above and beyond to help change a life.

Nominations are now being accepted in six categories:

- **Employee of the Year:** given to an individual with a disability who has exhibited exceptional ability and determination in entering or re-entering the workforce or maintaining employment.
- **Employer of the Year:** given to recognize the extent and effectiveness of the nominee's activities in promoting employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities beyond what is mandated by Federal, State and local laws.
- **Harford County Student Worker of the Year:** presented to a Harford County student enrolled in high school, college, or a vocational training program that has a work component as part of the program.
- **Accessibility Award:** recognizes businesses, facilities, programs, and services in Harford County that are accessible to all through design and/or inclusive and accommodating practices.
- **Ruth Helen Thompson Memorial Community Service Award:** given to recognize an individual, organization, agency or facility that is doing an outstanding job in helping to include individuals with disabilities in employment or community activities.
- **Media Award:** given to an individual or organization who has contributed throughout the year with programming, media coverage or sponsorship of advertisement to promote or change attitudes toward individuals with disabilities.

For more information or to obtain a nomination form, contact the Harford County Department of Community Services' Disabilities Coordinator, Rachel Harbin at 410-638-3373. Nomination forms may be submitted online or downloaded at [www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities) (click on "Nominate a Winner!"). The deadline to submit a nomination is September 1, 2014.

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities was established in 1995 to serve as the voice of the disability community in Harford County. Members are appointed by the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council. The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, local and private agencies to ensure the county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for the citizens and community. # # #

*"Preserving Harford's past. Promoting Harford's future."*